

Stateless People in Bangladesh Inc.

Operating as

The Stateless in Bangladesh
& Pakistan

Every face has a story to tell

I promised myself, I
would let them tell
their own story.



Welcome & Thanks

To All of you for taking the time for meeting
with us and listening to our story

Shouldn't he be in school?



Instead of working 10 hour days for 50 cents a day

We Salute and Thank

All those who came before us:

Absent & Present, Young & Old
Men & Women, Famous & Unknown
Individuals & Groups

Who Served:

The Stranded Pakistanis
To the best of their ability and resources



Our Promise to You

- All of you have many memories, regrets, questions comments etc. It may not possible to deal with all of that right now or today.
- Jot down your thoughts. Communicate with us in whatever manner your prefer.
- We promise to give you a patient hearing, a reasoned response and an opportunity to make a contribution to an important cause in a timely manner, no matter who you are or where you live in the world.

Date: 12-17-2004 Place: Dhaka, Bangladesh.
What is missing?

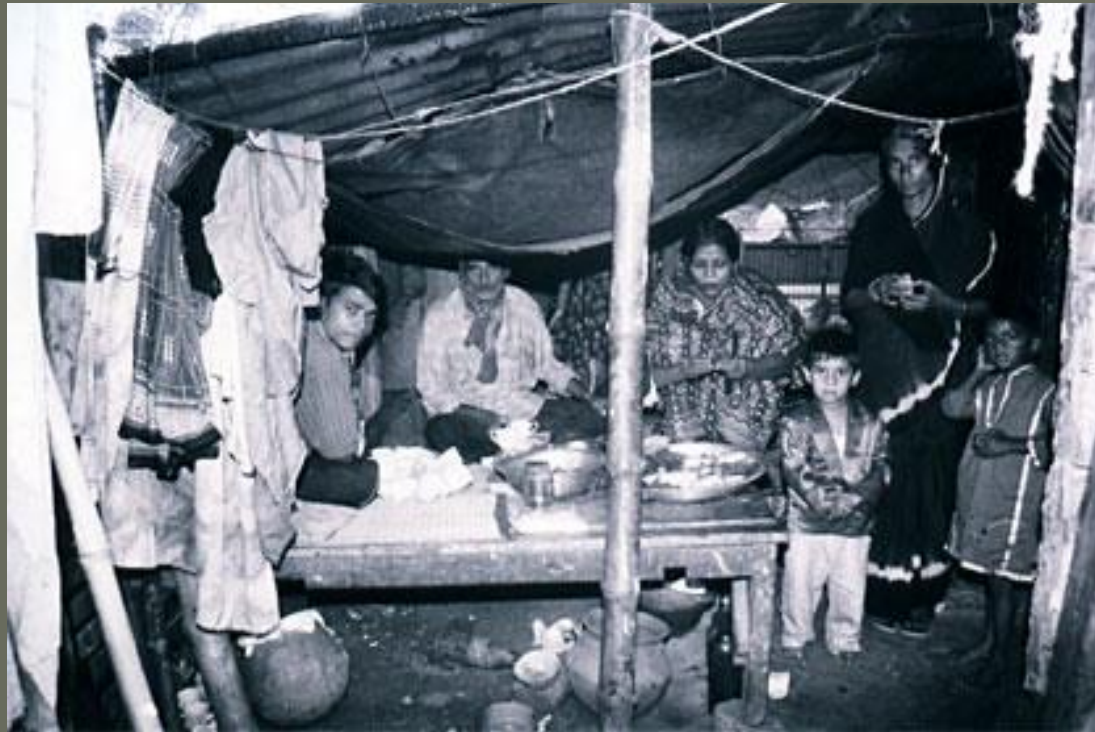


Where we Stand

- We are non-political, not associated with any party or group.
- We view this strictly as a citizen's rights and humanitarian issue.
- We are friends of both the Bangladeshis and the Sindhis.
- We are not associated with any Government.
- Peaceful coexistence with justice is our goal.

How is SPIB different?

This passes for someone's home



Stateless people are homeless too.

Suffering & Oppression of our Community

Loss of Life: More than 200,000 Urdu speaking killed.

Pain & Injury: Hundreds of thousands maimed and injured physically and psychologically

Loss of Property: Thousands of Businesses and homes confiscated.

Several generations of an otherwise middle class folks have been turned in to Stateless destitute.

Dhaka City Corporation collects garbage from all over the city but not from the camps.



Where Do We Start?

PAST:

- It is unalterable.
- We can record it truthfully.
- We can learn from it by preserving it.

FUTURE:

- Our actions will determine the future.
- What happens to us and those around us is our responsibility.



Consequences of Inaction

- Pain and suffering of 350,000 Stateless in Bangladesh and Pakistan will continue unabated.
- The future generations of this population are condemned to a sub-human life before they are even born.

(This problem will not go away in either country on its own, if we do not help the Stateless obtain the tools with which they may change their lives. Namely citizenship of a State.)



Proposed Action I

- Create one place in the world where the history of this community will be recorded and preserved truthfully without fear or favor for all times to come.
- Create one place where supporters and members of this community can meet, share ideas, pool resources and plan actions to change the future of the community.



Proposed Action I

Status: *Completed:

Visit

www.statelesspeopleinbangladesh.net

www.strandedpakistani.org

www.bihari.org

*Historical research and presentation of facts shall continue to be improved, many additional items awaiting to be posted.



Proposed Action II

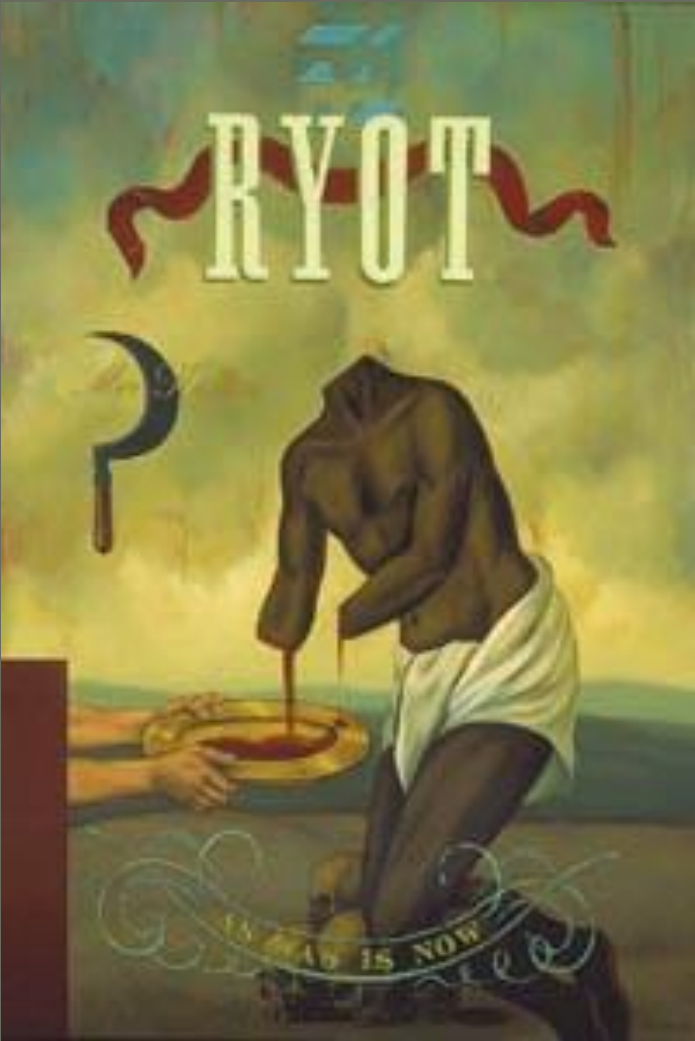
BANGLADESH:

- Help those who wish to become citizens of Bangladesh per Supreme court decision of 2003.
- Repatriation of those who wish to exercise their right of return.



Proposed Action II

- SPIB is discussing possible options in Bangladesh with local community and human rights organizations such as SPGRC, The Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh and others.
- We believe in respecting the choice of the individuals in the community.



Proposed Action II

PAKISTAN:

- File a petition in the highest court on behalf of victims of arbitrary, retroactive and mass deprivation of nationality without representation or due process of law in Pakistan.



Proposed Action II

Status:

- In our opinion petition currently under consideration in Lahore High Court in respect of Stranded Pakistanis is neither well founded nor sufficiently supported. Its future is uncertain and possibly bleak.
- We are proposing a constitutional petition on behalf of actual victims of arbitrary deprivation of nationality.

Proposed Action II

This action is necessary because:

- The treatment of this minority has been in violation of the constitution and laws of Pakistan.
- Right to a nationality is a fundamental human right protected by every international convention dealing with human rights.
- It is necessary to confront this matter in the judiciary as soon as possible.
- Without completing this step we can not go to the international venues to ask for justice.

Proposed Action III

- Create a world class documentary to educate public all over the globe and raise funds for community welfare and development projects.

Status:

Concept, budget or deadline for this project has not yet been determined.

Over the last 35 years many groups have worked in some camps, with little planning or sufficient resources. We particularly appreciate the work of Obat Helpers Inc. They are based in Indiana, USA.

What are we to do?

- As an educated and prosperous citizen of (of Pakistan, US, Canada or another country) what is our obligation?
- What is the difference between us and the destitute of the camps?
- What would we have wanted if we were trapped in such circumstances?

Points to Consider

Governments will do nothing even if we could devise a way to show them the right thing to do.

No one among us is powerful or wealthy enough to create the change we desire to see.

We have no choice but to work together.

The change we desire will take longer than any of us can imagine.

If we work together there will be differences of opinion.

Collective action can never comply absolutely with the ideas of any one of us. It will be necessary to for us all to cooperate and compromise to accomplish our goal.

The Most Important Point

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the **WORLD**, indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Meade (a Canadian author)

How can One help?

Volunteer:

- Use your time, energy and talent to work for the cause. We can create opportunities in-line with your talents, resources and commitments. This work is as important as anything else you do.

*Donate:

- Help us financially.

*SPIB is a 501(c)3 tax exempt entity your donations are tax deductible. SPIB has no employees. The directors receive no financial or material compensation for their work.

How to Reach us

- Web site: www.strandedpakistani.org
- Mailing/Street Address:
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